



BILLING CODE: 3410-03

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Meeting

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: The meeting dates are August 27-28, 2012, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

ADDRESS: Columbia Ballroom B, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; E-mail AC21@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The next meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for August 27-28, 2012. The AC21 consists of members representing the biotechnology industry, the organic food industry, farming communities, the seed industry, food manufacturers, state government, consumer and community development groups, as well as academic researchers and a medical doctor. In addition, representatives

from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative have been invited to serve as ``ex officio" members. The Committee meeting will be held from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm on each day. The objective for the meeting is to complete all substantive work on a report to USDA addressing the following charge from Secretary Vilsack:

1. What types of compensation mechanisms, if any, would be appropriate to address economic losses by farmers in which the value of their crops is reduced by unintended presence of GE material(s)?
2. What would be necessary to implement such mechanisms? That is, what would be the eligibility standard for a loss and what tools and triggers (e.g., tolerances, testing protocols, etc.) would be needed to verify and measure such losses and determine if claims are compensable?
3. In addition to the above, what other actions would be appropriate to bolster or facilitate coexistence among different agricultural production systems in the United States?

Background information regarding the work and membership of the AC21 is available on the USDA web site at

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml&contentidonly=true>. An electronic copy of the draft report under discussion will be available on that

website at least one week prior to the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should also inform Dr. Schechtman in writing or via E-mail at the indicated addresses at least three business days before the meeting. On May 29, 2012, if

time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Fowler at (202) 720-4074 or by E-mail at Dianne.fowler@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, telephone, and fax number when you register. If you are a person with a disability and request reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please note the request in your registration. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: July 27, 2012

Catherine E. Woteki
Under Secretary
Research, Education and Economics

[FR Doc. 2012-19113 Filed 08/03/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 08/06/2012]